

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202412

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: RESTRICTIONS ON BASE

PERSONNEL

MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE DRAFT TEXT OF A REQUEST TO THE GOI
THAT CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BE DISCUSSED IN
THE DEFENSE COUNCIL WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RELAXING CERTAIN
DEMEANING RESTRICTIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE AFFECTING THE
LOWER ENLISTED RANKS. THE REQUEST IS A UNILATERAL DOCUMENT
WHICH YOU SHOULD HAND TO AN APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIAL
DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR DISCUSSION OF IDF RETENTION IS-
SUES. YOU SHOULD URGE GOI TO CONSIDER CHANGED CONDITIONS
WHICH SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED
DURING EARLY 1950'S. FIRST, PERSONNEL LEVELS HAVE BEEN
SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED AND WILL BE STILL FURTHER REDUCED FOL-
LOWING REPLACEMENT OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL BY QUALIFIED
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ICELANDERS UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS WE ARE DISCUSSING. THE

ENLISTED RANKS NOW AFFECTED NUMBER LITTLE MORE THAN 800 AND WILL BE STILL LESS IN THE FUTURE. IT SEEMS TO US AN UN-REASONABLY UNPLEASANT HARSHIP FOR THESE RANKS TO BE SUB-JECTED TO DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

SECOND, THE MARKED CLOSING OF THE GAP BETWEEN RELATIVE LIVING STANDARDS SINCE THE EARLY 1950'S SHOULD, IN ITSELF, SERVE AS AN AUTOMATIC PROTECTION AGAINST THE ABUSES WHICH THESE RESTRICTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO PREVENT.

THIRD, A RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH OUR JOINT CONTINUED EFFORTS TO FOSTER FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ICELANDIC PEOPLE AND THE IDF. SEPARATION OF MILITARY AND CIVIL FUNCTIONS AT THE BASE IS ONE ELEMENT OF THIS EFFORT. EMPLOYMENT OF LARGER NUMBERS OF ICELANDERS IS ANOTHER. A RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON US BASE PERSONNEL WOULD BE YET ANOTHER. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR A GOI COMMITMENT ON MATTERS OF DETAIL WITH RESPECT TO THESE RESTRICTIONS NOW. HOWEVER, WE DO SEEK A COMMITMENT THAT THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE DEFENSE COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING THEM.

2. BEGIN TEXT. "MATTERS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE AGREEMENT OF THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT". PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, THE FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REQUESTS CONSIDERATION AND AGREEMENT IN THE ICELANDIC DEFENSE COUNCIL:

(1) MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE WILL NORMALLY WEAR A UNIFORM ONLY WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY.

(2) THERE SHALL ORDINARILY BE NO CURFEW RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY ICELANDIC AUTHORITY ON UNITED STATES PERSONNEL PRESENT IN ICELAND PURSUANT TO THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE UNITED STATES ASSURES THE GOOD CONDUCT OF ITS PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE ICELAND DEFENSE

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FORCE.

(3) AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNING THE IMPOSITION OF REASONABLE CONTROLS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND ON DUTY-FREE GOODS TAKEN OFF THE AGREED AREAS BY THE PERSONNEL OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE. THE CONTROLS PERMITTED BY SUCH PROCEDURES SHALL REFLECT A BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT

OF ICELAND TO PREVENT DUTY-FREE GOODS FROM REACHING THE
ICELANDIC ECONOMY AND THE INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO
ARE ENTITLED TO PURCHASE COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE GOODS FOR
THEIR OWN USE AND CONSUMPTION. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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